United Nations S/PV.4667

Security Council

Fifty-seventh year

Provisional

4667th meeting

Friday, 13 December 2002, 3.40 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Valdivieso	(Colombia)
Members:	Bulgaria	Mr. Katzarski
	Cameroon	Mr. Tidjani
	China	Mr. Jiang Jiang
	France	Mr. Duclos
	Guinea	Mr. Boubacar Diallo
	Ireland	Mr. Ryan
	Mauritius	Mr. Jingree
	Mexico	Mr. Pujalte
	Norway	Mr. Strømmen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Lavrov
	Singapore	Ms. Lee
	Syrian Arab Republic	Mr. Wehbe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Harrison
	United States of America	Mr. Negroponte

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

02-73957 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations. Members of the Council have before them document S/2002/1351, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United States of America.

I shall first give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Wehbe (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): The Syrian Arab Republic will vote against the draft resolution before us because the sponsor of the draft resolution insists on using language that deviates from the main purpose of the draft resolution, which is to condemn the act of international terrorism carried out in Kikambala, Kenya, which led to the death of a number of innocent civilians. We would like to state that Syria was among the first to support the two earlier Security Council resolutions, resolutions 1438 (2002) and 1440 (2002), which condemned the tragic events in Bali and in Moscow respectively.

It was our hope that a draft resolution on the events that occurred in Kenya would be unanimously adopted by the Council, and that it would be on the pattern of the two aforementioned resolutions, rather than having its scope expanded to include elements that imply direct intervention in the internal affairs of the country where the events took place. are concerned also about the unacceptable political references that reflect negatively on the situation in the Middle East region, including the situation in the occupied Arab territories. Such references do not accord with our understanding of, or position on, the situation. Nor does the attempt to link Israel to efforts to combat terrorism; this exploits the international campaign against terrorism.

During the consultations on this draft resolution, Syria expressed its wish that its sponsors would take into consideration our view that the draft resolution be amended along the lines of the resolutions adopted on Bali and on Moscow. Regrettably, our efforts and those of many other Council members to that effect did not yield the desired results.

In order to further clarify our position, we wish to emphasize the following. First, Syria unreservedly condemns the terrorist attack perpetrated in Kikambala, Kenya, which led to the deaths of a number of innocent civilians and reaffirms its sincere solidarity with the Government and the people of Kenya in the face of such terrorist attacks. Secondly, Syria reiterates its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and reaffirms its commitment to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and its commitment to combating international terrorism.

Finally, Syria will vote against the draft resolution before us because it cannot accept its repeated mention of Israel in a manner that is not in keeping with the wording of the resolutions on Bali and on Moscow. The draft resolution repeats the name of Israel at a time when Israel is practising the worst forms of terrorism and daily committing crimes against humanity in the occupied Arab territories, the latest of which killed 10 innocent Palestinian civilians in the Boreij refugee camp on 6 December and five innocent civilians in Gaza this morning — on the very day when we are about to vote on this draft resolution — not to mention the fact that Israel has killed three United Nations international civil servants during the past two weeks alone.

Those considerations oblige us to vote against the draft resolution.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): It is my understanding that the Security Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, France, Guinea, Ireland, Mauritius, Mexico, Norway, Russian Federation, Singapore, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Syrian Arab Republic.

The President (*spoke in Spanish*): The result of the voting is as follows: 14 votes in favour, one vote against and no abstentions. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 1450 (2002).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.